

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1.(currently amended): A communication node comprising:

a backplane transmission circuit ~~transmitting for accomplishing transmission of a~~  
signal between communication units installed in a plurality of slots; and

a signal waveform control unit ~~[[for]]~~ interfacing with said backplane  
transmission circuit and controlling a waveform of said signal on the basis of installed slot  
position information ~~[[on]] of said communication units unit installing slots~~ in said backplane  
transmission circuit.

2.(currently amended): A communication node according to claim 1, wherein said  
signal waveform control unit includes:

an installing slot position information collecting section for collecting said  
~~communication unit installing~~ installed slot position information; and

a waveform correction information generating section for generating waveform  
correction information corresponding to a transmission distance of said signal on the basis of  
said ~~installing~~ installed slot position information collected in said installing slot position  
information collecting section so that the waveform control is implemented on the basis of the  
waveform correction information generated in said waveform correction information generating  
section.

3.(currently amended): A communication node according to claim 1, wherein a  
transmission circuit with a transmission signal amplitude control function is provided in ~~[[said]]~~  
a communication unit on a signal transmission side so that said signal waveform control unit

implements the waveform control by controlling an amplitude control value in said transmission circuit.

4.(currently amended): A communication node according to claim 2, wherein a transmission circuit with a transmission signal amplitude control function is provided in [[said]] a communication unit on a signal transmission side so that said signal waveform control unit implements the waveform control by controlling an amplitude control value in said transmission circuit.

5.(currently amended): A communication node according to claim 1, wherein a reception circuit with a receive signal amplitude control function is provided in [[said]] a communication unit on a signal receive side so that said signal waveform control unit [[is]] implements the waveform control by controlling an amplitude control value in said reception circuit.

6.(currently amended): A communication node according to claim 2, wherein a reception circuit with a receive signal amplitude control function is provided in [[said]] a communication unit on a signal receive side so that said signal waveform control unit [[is]] implements the waveform control by controlling an amplitude control value in said reception circuit.

7.(currently amended): A communication node according to claim 3, wherein a reception circuit with a receive signal amplitude control function is provided in [[said]] a

communication unit on a signal receive side so that said signal waveform control unit ~~[[is]]~~ implements the waveform control by controlling an amplitude control value in said reception circuit.

8.(currently amended): A communication node according to claim 4, wherein a reception circuit with a receive signal amplitude control function is provided in ~~[[said]]~~ a communication unit on a signal receive side so that said signal waveform control unit ~~[[is]]~~ implements the waveform control by controlling an amplitude control value in said reception circuit.

9.(currently amended): A communication node according to claim 1, wherein said signal waveform control unit is provided in each ~~of said~~ signal transmission side communication unit and ~~[[said]]~~ each signal receive side communication unit so that said signal waveform control units ~~make communication~~ communicate with each other to determine an amplitude control value of said signal for accomplishing the waveform control.

10.(original): A communication node according to claim 1, wherein each of said communication units is equipped with an error correcting circuit for correcting an error of said signal.

11.(original): A communication node according to claim 10, wherein said error correcting circuit in said communication unit on a signal transmission side is made to add error correction information for error correction to said signal and said error correcting circuit in said

communication unit on a signal receive side is made to perform the error correction on the basis of said error correction information added to said signal.

12. (original): A communication node according to claim 1, wherein said backplane transmission circuit includes:

an extension connection section used for additionally installing a communication unit for said slot; and

an extension signal wiring section for establishing communication between the communication unit additionally installed and connected to said extension connection section and the other existing communication unit.

13.(currently amended): A communication unit for installation in a slot of a communication node having installed in each of a plurality of slots, said of a communication node which includes a backplane transmission circuit for accomplishing transmission of a signal between [[the]] communication units installed in said plurality of slots, said communication unit comprising:

a transmission circuit [[for]] transmitting a signal to [[the]] a communication unit installed in another slot of said backplane transmission circuit; and

a transmission side waveform control circuit [[for]] controlling a waveform of said signal transmitted from said transmission circuit on the basis of ~~installing~~ slot position information [[on]] of the communication unit installed in said ~~another~~ other slot.

14.(currently amended): A communication unit for installation in a slot of a communication node having installed in each of a plurality of slots, said ~~of a communication node which~~ includes a backplane transmission circuit for accomplishing transmission of a signal between ~~[[the]]~~ communication units installed in said plurality of slots, said communication unit comprising:

a reception circuit ~~[[for]]~~ receiving a signal from ~~[[the]]~~ a communication unit installed in another slot of said backplane transmission circuit; and

a receive side waveform control circuit ~~[[for]]~~ controlling a waveform of said signal received in said reception circuit on the basis of ~~installing~~ slot position information ~~[[on]]~~ of the communication unit installed in said ~~another~~ other slot.

15.(currently amended): A communication unit for installation in a slot of a communication node having installed in each of a plurality of slots, said ~~of a communication node which~~ includes a backplane transmission circuit for accomplishing transmission of a signal between ~~[[the]]~~ communication units installed in said plurality of slots, said communication unit comprising:

a transmission circuit ~~[[for]]~~ transmitting a signal to ~~[[the]]~~ a communication unit installed in another slot of said backplane transmission circuit;

a reception circuit for receiving another signal from the communication unit installed in said ~~another~~ other slot of said backplane transmission circuit; and

a waveform control circuit for controlling a waveform of at least one of ~~waveform~~ of said signals based on ~~the communication unit installing~~ installed slot position information ~~[[on]]~~ of the communication unit installed in said ~~another~~ other slot.